



# Newsletter

December 2007

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[www.jens-place.org](http://www.jens-place.org)

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## Message from the Director

**Wishing Everyone a  
Happy Holiday  
and a  
Great New Year**

From all the staff of



## The REAL Program

As the end of the school term approaches, we have reflected back on the successes of the students and the progress of the program. To date we have acquired approximately six (6) courses available to students to immediately choose from when they start the program or come during a suspension. Each student has been successful in acquiring their own individual Independent Learning Centre courses where they are working diligently toward credits. Our program has reached capacity on two occasions, and we had the opportunity to have a Humber student in the classroom for most of the semester.

However, the end of the term has also brought the departure of Mandi Turner, the classroom instructor. Mandi has chosen to pursue other areas of child and youth work. Both the staff and the children will miss you Mandy.

On a better note though, we would like to welcome Theresa Toron. Theresa has experience with both residential care and within the school system. Theresa has her BA in Child and Youth Work from Ryerson University. We are very excited to have Theresa starting with us and further advancing the REAL Program forward and ultimately to private school status.

Report cards for the students will be available for each student in the program on December 21, 2007.

## What's New at Jen's Place?

We will be hosting a Christmas party for the residents on Thursday December 20<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. Family, CAS workers and significant others are welcome to attend. Contact the primary worker for more details.

Happy Birthday this month to both Karen Mabee and to Katie Warren-McCullough.

Happy Anniversary to Rachael Greenland-Smith. Rachael started as a placement student with us in September 2006 and has been a terrific relief staff for one year now.

Welcome again to our new staff Theresa Toron to the REAL Program

We are sad to announce the departure of Stephanie Gulluzio. Stephanie will be leaving us around the middle of January as she is moving to Bowmanville and is choosing not to commute daily to Alliston – go figure! We will miss you terribly Stephanie.

## Bed Availability

**We accept youth ages 11-18 years.**

**We currently have one (1) bed  
available for a male. Please contact  
Jen Foster or Jennifer Dymont for  
more information**



## CYW Views

December really is the month of holidays and the mark of an end of a year- good or bad, with an opportunity to think about starting new.

As Child and Youth Workers, we are provided an opportunity to celebrate important religious, cultural and holiday events with youth in their life spaces. We need to take these opportunities to learn from the youth and assist in the celebration that carries on the importance of the holidays. Celebrations and rituals are widely known to influence those who participate in them and promote resiliency.

Here is a list of December holidays (Religious and Non-religious) that as CYW's, we should be aware of in order to promote participation:

- Hanukkah (Jewish) - Sundown December 4- 12
- St Nicholas Day (Christian) – December 6
- Bodhi Day (Buddhist) - December 8
- Fiesta of Our Lady Guadalupe (Mexican) - Dec. 12
- St. Lucia Day (Swedish) - December 13
- Las Posadas (Mexican) - December 16-25
- Eid'ul-Adha (Islamic, Muslim) – Dec 20-22
- Christmas (Christian) - December 25
- Boxing Day (Australian, Canadian, English, Irish) - December 26
- Kwanzaa (African American) - December 26 to January 1st
- Omisoka (Japanese) – December 31

December is also considered:

- National Stress Free Family Holiday Month
- International Children's Day- December 9
- Human Rights Day - December 10
- National Chocolate Day – Dec 16

Another noteworthy Celebration that occurs prior to December but should be acknowledged includes:

- Birthday of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i) November 12

And we would never forget those who do not celebrate the holidays at all- for all of you, we wish you a **Happy Festivus** (Seinfeld)

## Employment Opportunities

We are currently looking for individuals for the following position:

- **Full Time Child and Youth Worker/Residential Counsellor**
- **Residential Counsellor- Weekdays and Weekends**

## Quote of the Month:

*Once again, we come to the HOLIDAY season, a deeply religious time that each of us observes, in his (or her) own way, by going to the mall of his (or her) own choice.*

Dave Barry

## Services Provided

Jen's Place provides the following services to both CAS clients and to community members

- ⇒ Residential Services for Adolescents
- ⇒ Behavioural Assessments and Programming
- ⇒ Private Supervised Access Arrangements
- ⇒ Home Schooling/Alternative Day Program
- ⇒ Individual Youth and Family Counselling



Alana and Darryl Bell, Marie Gross